The invention claimed is:

1. An intravenous catheter insertion device comprising:

(a) a hollow cylindrical barrel of semi-rigid plastic material having an insertion end and a distal end;

(b) a catheter insertion needle carrier slidably mounted within said barrel;

(c) a catheter insertion needle fixedly attached to said needle carrier and oriented toward said insertion end;

(d) an intravenous catheter removable secured about said needle, said intravenous catheter comprising a rigid hollow conical base and a flexible hollow tube extending from the narrow end of said base, said base having a circumferential flange extending the wide end;

(e) sliding means mounted on said needle carrier extending exterior of said barrel for sliding said needle carrier with said needle and said catheter within said barrel to expose or retract said needle with said catheter; and

(f) a resealable closure near said insertion end that opens to allow passage of said insertion needle and catheter during exposure and closes when said insertion needle is retracted.

2. The intravenous catheter insertion device according to claim 1 further comprising:

(g) a locking surface at said insertion end having an inner diameter slightly smaller than the outer diameter of said circumferential flange to prevent retraction of said catheter after exposure; and

(h) a removable cap adapted to be secured over said insertion end when said

insertion needle is retracted within said barrel.

3. The intravenous catheter insertion device according to claim 1 wherein said barrel comprises:

(i) a longitudinal slot partially extending between said ends,

(ii) an inwardly projecting locking surface near said insertion end, and

(iii) internal locking notches near either end.

4. The intravenous catheter insertion device according to claim 3 wherein said sliding means comprises a rigid sliding member extending through said slot and fixedly attached to said needle carrier by an outwardly biased flexible member, said flexible member having a locking ridge on one side that is releasably locked into either of said locking notches by said biased member.

5. The intravenous catheter insertion device according to claim 4 further comprising a removable cap adapted to be secured over said insertion end when said insertion needle is retracted within said barrel.

6. The intravenous catheter insertion device according to claim 4 wherein said removable cap extends the length of said barrel from said insertion end to cover said slot.

7. An intravenous catheter insertion device comprising:

(a) a hollow cylindrical barrel of semi-rigid plastic material having an insertion end and a distal end, said barrel comprising;

(i) a longitudinal slot partially extending between said ends,

(ii) an inwardly projecting locking surface near said insertion end, and

(iii) internal locking notches near either end.

(b) a catheter insertion needle carrier slidably mounted within said barrel;

(c) a catheter insertion needle fixedly attached to said needle carrier and oriented toward said insertion end;

(d) a rigid sliding member extending through said slot and fixedly attached to said needle carrier by an outwardly biased flexible member, said flexible member having a locking ridge on one side that is releasably locked into either of said locking notches by said biased member;

(e) an intravenous catheter removable secured about said needle, said intravenous catheter comprising a rigid hollow conical base and a flexible hollow tube extending from the narrow end of said base, said base having a circumferential flange extending the wide end;

(f) a locking surface at said insertion end having an inner diameter slightly smaller than the outer diameter of said circumferential flange to prevent retraction of said catheter after exposure; and

(g) a removable cap adapted to be secured over said insertion end when said insertion needle is retracted within said barrel, said removable cap extending the length of said barrel from said insertion end to cover said slot; and

(h) a resealable closure near said insertion end that opens to allow passage of said insertion needle and catheter during exposure and closes when said insertion needle is retracted.